

# Pettitt's SHC semi-final - October 6, 2013

## Ferns St. Aidans 2-12, Glynn/Barntown 1-10

FERNs ST. Aidans may not have hit the heights everyone expected, but they still will be content with their five-point victory over Glynn-Barntown as they went on to achieve their goal in this Pettitt's Senior hurling championship semi-final at Wexford Park on Sunday last.

This success was hard-earned but that is what Ferns would have expected as, having looked the sharper and superior force through the opening 30 minutes, they had to withstand a second-half surge fromn Glynn-Barntown which left this result in doubt until the closing minutes.

Conditions were difficult, particularly underfoot, with the ground offering up something akin to a skating rink, which once again brings into question the all-weather surface at the venue which has deteriorated rapidly in recent weeks. Despite this, credit to both sides for serving up a tense, close and tough second-half, with fortunes in the end favouring Ferns. They had seven points to spare at the interval which left Glynn-Barntown with lots to do on the resumption. While they never gave up the chase, as Mark Fanning's goal from a penalty six minutes from the end left just three points (2-9 to 1-9) separating the sides, at this stage that the impressive Ian Byrne stepped in with two marvellous long-range points, after a Mark Flood effort had reduced the deficit to two minutes earlier.

Ferns were the better hurling team. Their first touch and stick work was slicker, while they also had Ian Byrne shining in attack, with the wing-forward contributing six points from play in a marvellous exhibition in the testing conditions which prevailed throughout.

Ferns set about trying to blitz their opponents through the opening exchanges. That is just what they did as they raced into a 1-3 to nil lead by the 13th minute, and a little more composure close to goal would have seen them with a greater lead.

Ian Byrne opened the scoring after two minutes with a fine point off the wing out on the terrace side, while two minutes later, after what was possibly the best move of the game, the eventual winners struck for the game's opening goal. Ciarán Roberts played a great ball to Patrick Farrell, who in turn linked up with Paul Morris, leaving the centre-forward to cut through the defence before rifling a superb shot across Mark Fanning into the right-hand corner of the net. Full-forward John Breen followed up with two points to put his side 1-3 to nil clear.

Glynn-Barntown had to wait until the 16th minute for their opening score, a Craig Doyle point. Ian Byrne and Doyle went on to exchange points. Following some close exchanges, Paul Carley (free) and John Breen swapped further points, while a Gary Moore effort reduced the deficit to 1-5 to 0-4 after 25 minutes.

As the game moved into additional time, Patrick Farrell was fouled as he drove in on goal, with Tommy Dwyer powering the resulting penalty to the net, leaving his side with a 2-5 to 0-4 interval lead.

Close to the interval the game was marred by a melee under the stand when a Glynn-Barntown substitute lashed out at a Ferns player, resulting in a free for all involving a number of players, but referee Justin Heffernan calmed matters down and blew for half-time.

Glynn-Barntown may have scrambled to remain in the game through the opening period, but on the resumption they brought more composure and passion to their play as they set about trying to reel in their opponents.

Within two minutesof the re-start, Paul Carley was fouled and pointed the resulting free, but the Ferns response was immediate as Ian Byrne sent over another great long-range point. Glynn-Barntown went on to have their best spell, shooting four unanswered points between the 36th and 40th minutes through John Leacy with a long-range effort, Paul Carley (two frees) and Gary Moore with one in between, to reduce the deficit to three points (2-6 to 0-9).

In fairness Ferns responded with a Tommy Dwyer 50-metre pointed free, while Ian Byrne continued his fine showing with a long-range effort. With seven minutes remaining, Tommy Dwyer from a free extended his side into a 2-9 to 0-9 lead, but then came Fanning's goal from a penalty.

After substitute Mark Flood reduced the deficit even further, to two points, Ferns stood up to the challenge, with Tommy Dwyer pointing a free before two superb long-range efforts from Ian Byrne killed off the Glynn-Barntown revival.

**Ferns St Aidans:** Mick Walsh; Declan Byrne, Niall Maguire, Colm Whelan; Gavin Bailey, James Tonks, Ciarán Roberts; Brendan Jordan, Tommy Dwyer (1-3, 1-0 pen., 0-3 frees); Ian Byrne (0-6), Paul Morris (capt., 1-0), Jonathon Dwyer; Patrick Farrell, John Breen (0-3), Christopher O'Connor. **Subs:** Derek Thorpe for J. Dwyer, Edward Cullen for Farrell, Jamie Whelan for O'Connor, Colin Leacy for Bailey.

**Glynn/Barntown:** Mark Fanning (1-0 pen.); James Reilly, Pádraig Donnelly (capt.), Barry Doyle; Mark Carley, Michael O'Regan, P J Carley; Kevin Crean, John Leacy (0-1); James Dooley, Brendan Doyle, Michael Doyle; Craig Doyle (0-2), Gary Moore (0-2), Paul Carley (0-4, 3 frees). **Subs:** Mark Flood (0-1) for Crean, Pádraic Wafer for Dooley, Ian Moran for P. Carley, Eugene Furlong for M. Doyle.

**Referee:** Justin Heffernan (Blackwater)